

Comic Life – How to get started!



Comic Life

Comic Life is a great way to use all the photos you have in iPhoto in an engaging format that students love.

Step 1: Have some photos in your iPhoto library. This will make it very easy when you come to adding photos into your comic. There are other ways of putting images into the comic, but this is the easiest.

Step 2: Create a storyline for your comic – you need to link all the pictures together somehow. If it is your first try, random photos will be okay to practise with.

Step 3: Open Comic Life and you will come to a new page. On the right you will see these two windows:

	<p>This window is how you choose a template for the page. You just click and drag one of the templates out onto the main page.</p>
	<p>This is where you will see the photos that are in iPhoto. To move one out onto the main page, just click on it and drag it out. Fill up your template with the photos – one photo for each area of the template.</p>

Step 4: Adding text to your comic. After you have filled up your first page template with photos, you can add captions, speech or thought bubbles and dynamic text.

Go to the bottom of the page and you will see this:



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Drag one of the speech bubbles up to the picture you want and let go. The text in the speech bubble will become highlighted and you will be able to type in your character's speech (or thought!)



Now, drag up the box that is labelled caption



This is used to create additional narrative aspects to your story.



And, then drag the POW up to the picture you want and add some real effect!



Complete the rest of your page using these tools.

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Step 5: Changing the images.

There are lots of effects you can add to the pictures – one of my favourites is “Acrylic Comic”. To change the image, you must do this:

Double click on the image and you will see green dots appear wider than the image box it is in (in fact it is how big the picture would have been originally). It looks like this:



You can see that the green dots are much bigger than the picture frame. Now go up to the top and you will see STYLE. Choose from the different styles in the list – one of them is Acrylic Comic – this makes it look like a comic drawing!

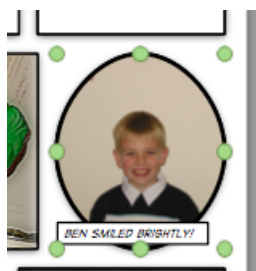
You may not use them at all, but they can be very effective.

Step 6: Change the picture frame.

If you just click once on the picture you want, then the green dots are restricted to the edge of the picture frame.



Now, go up to the style and choose from the list (it is different!!) – this will only refer to the image box. I chose OVAL DEFAULT and got this.



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Step 7: Making adjustments!

This Step is all about changing the way things look. You will have noticed that when you choose something (i.e. click on it), it will get green dots all around it's edge. This tells the computer that this is the object on the screen that you wish to change.

Part A - Choose one of the speech bubbles you made by clicking on it. The green dots should appear.

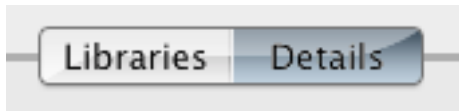
At the top of the screen you will see this:



When you click on these you can make the text bigger or smaller. To make the speech bubble bigger, drag out one of it's edges.

You may also notice one of the dots in a speech bubble is brown – this is the start of the speech bubble and can be directed more towards the mouth of the speaker.

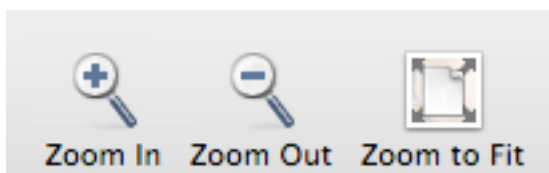
Part B – At the top of the template area, you will see this:



It was on LIBRARIES, but I have clicked on DETAILS. This is where you can change a lot of the aspects of the chosen object. Try some of them out.

When you choose different objects, this menu will change.

PART C – Making it easier to see.



The Zoom in and out buttons allow you to change the look of the page making it easier for you to see the writing. Don't worry about the ZOOM to FIT button.

Step 8: Adding a new page.

Once you have completed your first page, you will want to make another. Go to the BOTTOM LEFT of the screen and you will see this:



When you click on the PLUS, you will get a new page (the MINUS is for deleting a page) The other button has a number of choices which you can look at. Another way to get a new page is to go up to PAGE and choose NEW PAGE.

Hope this helps, Grant